

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A coated metal electrode, the metal electrode comprising a coating and an overcoating, wherein the overcoating comprises a surfactant, wherein the coating comprises a sulfur containing moiety in its molecular structure, wherein

the coating does not result in a loss of the sensing characteristics of the electrode, and wherein;

the coating is selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptopropanoic acid, 2-mercaptopropanoylethylamine, thiophene, L-cysteine, L-cystine, D-cysteine, D-cystine, L-homocysteine, D-homocysteine, and wherein;

a temporal stability of the coated metal electrode is greater than a temporal stability of a corresponding uncoated metal electrode.

2-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The coated metal electrode according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a stereospecific compound.

15. (Previously Presented) The coated metal electrode according to claim 14, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a mixture of D isomers and L isomers.

16. (Previously Presented) The coated metal electrode according to claim 14, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a D isomer.

17. (Previously Presented) The coated metal electrode according to claim 14, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises an L isomer.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a metal electrode stabilized by a coating, the method comprising: contacting a metal electrode with a substance comprising a sulfur containing

moiety in its molecular structure; and thereafter contacting the metal electrode with a surfactant, whereby a coated metal electrode is obtained, wherein

the coating does not result in a loss of the sensing characteristics of the electrode, and wherein;

the coating is selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptopropanoic acid, 2-mercaptopropanoylethylamine, 3-mercaptopropionic acid, thiophene, L-cysteine, L-cystine, D-cysteine, D-cystine, L-homocysteine, D-homocysteine, and wherein;

a temporal stability of the coated metal electrode is increased relative to that of a corresponding uncoated metal electrode.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of sensing an analyte, the method comprising:

contacting a sample comprising an analyte to a metal electrode, the metal electrode comprising a coating and an overcoating, wherein the overcoating comprises a surfactant, wherein the coating comprises a sulfur containing moiety in its molecular structure, wherein

the coating does not result in a loss of the sensing characteristics of the electrode, and wherein;

the coating is selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptopropanoic acid, 2-mercaptopropanoylethylamine, 3-mercaptopropionic acid, thiophene, L-cysteine, L-cystine, D-cysteine, D-cystine, L-homocysteine, D-homocysteine, and wherein;

a temporal stability of the coated metal electrode is greater than a temporal stability of a corresponding uncoated metal electrode; and obtaining a measurement indicative of a presence of the analyte in the sample.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the coating further comprises a stereospecific compound.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 20, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a mixture of D isomers and L isomers.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 20, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a D isomer.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises an L isomer.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the coating further comprises a stereospecific compound.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 24, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a mixture of D isomers and L isomers.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 24, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises a D isomer.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 24, wherein the stereospecific compound comprises an L isomer.